



## HAY TIME PROJECT

CATEGORY: LANDSCAPE CASE STUDY YEAR: 2007

**Low Cornriggs farm  
Cowshill  
Durham**



<http://www.alstonandkillhoperidingcentre.co.uk>

### Description:

Low Cornriggs is a farm based B&B with 2 self-catering units, which is situated in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Business entered the scheme with a Silver award. The insulation levels in the properties are high. The farm is managed in a traditional way and there are parts which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. These are species rich upland hay meadows and the business is involved with the AONB Hay Time project. They are working closely with the AONB to ensure the preservation and enhancement of this rare habitat.



#### Economic

Could help create local employment and there is also a possibility that the hay could be sold at a premium as species rich hay is sought after owners of horses and ponies due its high feeding value.



#### Environmental

There are only around 11 square kilometres of upland hay meadows left in the UK and just under half of these are in the North Pennines AONB. Low Cornriggs are providing a seed source from their meadows that will be used to revitalise meadows that have been degraded due to modern farming practices. This habitat is regarded as being internationally important and can be home to 100 different flowering plants with up to 30 species being found in one square meter. These meadows are also important to ground nesting birds such as Lapwings and the now threatened Corncrake as well as mammals like the rare Water Vole, which favours streamside's that have a wide range of flowering plants.



#### Social

The AONB run events throughout the year which highlight the special interest within the area, the work that the AONB do is helping to boost the local economy through increased visitor numbers. The cultural heritage of the area is closely linked to the landscape character and projects like this promote the preservation of both. This project will add another facet to the outstanding heritage of the North Pennines.

#### WEB

North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: <http://www.northpennines.org.uk>